AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A process for producing vitamin C from L-sorbosone which comprises contacting L-sorbosone with a purified L-sorbosone dehydrogenase having the following physico-chemical properties;

a) Molecular weight: 150,000 ± 6,000 Da or 230,000 ±9,000 Da (consisting of 2 or 3 homologous subunits, each subunit having a molecular weight of 75,000 ± 3;000 Da)

b) Substrate specificity: active on aldehyde compounds

c) Cofactors: pyrroloquinoline quinone and heme c

d) Optimum pH; 6.4 to 8.2 for the production of vitamin C from L-sorbosone

e) Inhibitors: Co^{21}, Cu^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, monoiodoacetate and ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid,

wherein the conversion of L-sorbosone to vitamin C is catalyzed by the purified L-sorbosone dehydrogenase in the presence of an electron acceptor, and isolating the resulting vitamin C from the reaction mixture.

Claim 2. (Original) The process for producing vitamin C from L-sorbosone according to claim 1, wherein the L-sorbosone dehydrogenase is derived from the strain *Gluconobacter oxydans* DSM No. 4025 (FERM BP-3812), a microorganism belonging to the genus *Gluconobacter* having identifying characteristics to *G. oxydans* DSM 4025 (FERM BP-3812) or its mutants.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at pH values of about 6.4 to about 9.0 and at a temperature range from about 20°C to 60°C for about 0.5 to 48 hours.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at pH values of about 7.0 to 8.2 and at a temperature range from about 20°C to 50°C for about 0.5 to 24 hours.